

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

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SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 1892.

The Death of Mr. Darwin.

Probably no one man has ever done so much for the material prosperity of the township of Bloomfield, as Mr. A. G. Darwin. No one man has ever so distinctly changed the face of its landscape. To his indomitable energy, extensive influence and executive ability, is largely due the development of that section of the township known as Glen Ridge, from a farm to a most attractive suburb.

To one who remembers the fields, orchards and woodlands near Ridgewood avenue a few years ago, the streets, lawns and handsome residences now covering the same site appear almost like the result of enchantment. While others have rendered material assistance, this delightful change would not have taken place, at least not now, without its chief promoter, Mr. Darwin.

He had many friends and admirers who valued him for his own sake; he had likewise an extensive business acquaintance. His loss will be felt in many circles, but by Bloomfielders at large will long be remembered, principally as the presiding genius of the beautiful suburb on the south-west.

No Action by the Township Committee on the Water Question.

Knowing that the lot of the most faithful of the servants of the Dear Public, is as a rule, not a happy one; and realizing how much easier it is to criticize than to do, it is with some reluctance that we again call attention to the apparent lack of interest in the water question manifested by the Township Committee. There can be no other matter now before them of greater importance. Special meetings have been called at the request of different members, to take action upon matters of much smaller consequence, during the past year. If the regular meetings are so crowded with other business, the township would, willingly bear the expense (\$14,000) of an extra meeting, to give the present Township Committee all reasonable endeavors to accomplish something and fail, it will be blameless. But if it allows the township to drift into difficulty, those members who have any conscience, will doubtless experience several evil quarters of an hour.

Lighting the Township.

The Gas Committee have advertised for bids for lighting the township and several bids have been received. The Montclair Gas and Water Company will furnish five hundred and fifty lights, as heretofore from early candle light to twelve o'clock midnight, every night for the sum of fourteen dollars and thirty-five cents per lamp per annum, and to the cleaning and lighting. The Wheeler Reflector and Light Company Limited, offer to furnish five hundred and fifty "Wheeler Reflector" lights from early candle light until twelve o'clock midnight every night, for thirteen dollars and fifty cents per light per year.

The same Company will furnish five hundred and fifty "self generating" gas burners (naphtha system) for fifteen dollars per light per year, and offer to give the Committee a practical exhibition of their system of street lighting in advance. One Electric Light Company wishes to make a five year contract to furnish sixteen candle power incandescent lights from early candle light to twelve o'clock midnight, for the sum of fourteen dollars and fifty cents per light per year—twenty-five candle power lights, eighteen dollars and fifty cents per year. "It to have the right of way and permits for running the necessary lines, without expense to it, and it is to furnish all poles, wires, arms, lamps, fixtures, funnels, attendance and repairs without further expense to the township of Bloomfield beyond the yearly rent per light." The Essex County Electric Company under substantially the same conditions (five year contract &c.) offer to furnish twenty two candle power lamps at sixteen dollars per lamp per year.

While the bid of the Montclair Gas and Water Company appears higher than it ought to be, and while it looks like very short-sighted policy on the part of that Company to drive the hardest possible bargain with the township, nevertheless with so many matters demanding attention with regard to street lighting, water contracts, road improvements, sewer and the like, it would seem to be good

policy to make another year's contract with the Montclair Gas and Water Company.

In many instances the service of the Gas Company is not satisfactory. Burners are allowed to become choked with dust, and from time to time the quality of the gas is very poor. There is no doubt that, with the improved methods of the present day a new company could be formed which would be able to make a hand one profit, and still furnish gas far below the price made by the Montclair Gas and Water Company. A statement is often and widely made, that the Gas Company is obliged to pay dividends on a large quantity of water. There may be some truth in it, and the present management may be between the devil and the deep sea and not be able to pursue any more satisfactory course. But notwithstanding all these drawbacks, the gas service is about as satisfactory in Bloomfield as it is in most other places and the price is not outrageously high. Therefore, until something decided better, than is exhibited in the bids above set forth, comes to light, the most sensible thing to do is to renew the contract with the Montclair Gas and Water Company.

At any rate the Township Committee should not allow the execution of a street lighting contract to go over until the next township year. To continue to receive gas from the Montclair Gas and Water Company after its contract has expired, is simply to open the door for possible misunderstanding, which may result in the end in a far greater expenditure of money, than a certain number of cents per lamp per year would amount to.

What the Birds of the Air Say:

(THE CITIZEN is not responsible for the birds.)

That a larger amount of pew rent was collected in the Old Church last year than in any previous year since its organization.

That preparations for the centennial celebration in the Old Church have been begun by the appointment of a committee consisting of the pastor, Dr. Ballantine, Mr. William A. Baldwin and H. H. Biddleph to represent the session; the President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees to represent the Board of Trustees, and Judge Dodd and Mr. Halsey M. Barrett to represent the church society.

With the material at hand and such a committee to gather and arrange it, the hundredth anniversary of the Old Church will be celebrated in a manner worthy of the occasion.

That the Board of Trustees of the Old Church have voted to allow the use of the Church building by the Madrigal Society for its Concerts.

This is as it should be. Rules are well enough but there may be too much of even a good thing.

That the predication which the Bloomfield Madrigal Society finds it self in, of having no suitable place in town for its concert, enforces attention to the great desirability of a public hall.

That the trustees of the different churches should not be compelled to wrestle continually with the question of fitness or unfitness of uses to which they are asked to put church buildings. There should be a suitable public building provided for secular purposes.

That the calman who will go down in Bloomfield history as the original of his species in this town has found so much business as to be obliged to buy another horse and a coupe. It is to be hoped that he will die rich and have a monument erected to his memory. To think that Bloomfield should have come near celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its first church before the appearance of its first cab service.

That much curiosity is manifested as to the appearance of the birds who sing in the ear of the Editor of THE CITIZEN. One friend suggests that they be photographed—the whole flock, and the photographs distributed among the subscribers. This suggestion cannot be acted upon for fear of causing a corner in the salt market. Why, the mere hearing of their notes commented upon has scared off several promising birds, to the great grief of THE CITIZEN and the loss of its subscribers.

That some of the clergymen had their shovels broken after a recent snow. This may be considered good evidence that practical Christianity exists at least in spots.

That Mr. Thomas Oakes has been attending the meetings of the United States Grand Jury at Trenton.

That Mr. William C. Carl returned from Paris on Friday last, after an absence of nearly two years. While abroad, Mr. Carl studied under M. Alexandre, organist of La Trinité. He also took a course with M. Henri Falcke on the piano. M. Falcke was a pupil of Liszt. During his absence Mr. Carl has played in various places, Ireland, Scotland, England and France, including London and Paris. He returns with the manuscripts of two new compositions written for him by M. M. Guilmant and Salomé, and

a new song written by himself entitled Spring Voices.

That Mr. Carl's concert in Bloomfield is looked forward to with a good deal of interest.

That the Directors of THE CITIZEN met at Judge Dodd's on Tuesday evening. A bird sat on the branch of an elm tree till a late hour and followed some of the Directors homeward in hopes he might hear some news. But neither then nor since have any remarks been over heard concerning either the dinner or the meeting. But THE CITIZEN's dinners must be good and the meetings interesting, for ten out of the twelve directors responded to the invitation.

That a man from out of town, but well acquainted with Bloomfield people, says that there were a great many of them attending the Actors Fund Matinee this week.

That Judge Dodd entertained the Board of Directors of the Bloomfield Publishing Company on Tuesday evening. The following named gentlemen were present: Mr. Thomas Oakes, Mr. James Beach, Mr. G. Lee Stout, Dr. Harry E. Richards, Mr. Halsey M. Barrett, Mr. Wilard Richards, Mr. Leonard Richards, Mr. Edward P. Mitchell, Mr. Joseph D. Gallagher.

That the entertainments in progress at the Glen Ridge Club have been suspended on account of the death of Ex President Darwin.

Merit Wins.

We desire to say to our citizens, that for years past we have sold Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Dr. King's New Life Pills, Buckle's Aronica Salve and Electrodes, and have never handled remedies that did not give a good result. We give such universal satisfaction. We do not guarantee the price, but we stand ready to refund the purchase price, if satisfactory results do not follow.

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